



NEWS RELEASE

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USDA Rural Development Director Speaks To WKREDA Meeting

Topeka, KS. – USDA Rural Development State Director Chuck Banks made closing remarks yesterday at the Western Kansas Rural Economic Development Association (WKREDA) summer meeting in Russell. WKREDA is a nonprofit organization whose membership consists of representatives from the private and public sector engaged in promoting economic and community development for western Kansas.

State Director Banks, in his remarks, commented, "The opportunities for rural Kansas, especially for enhancing economic and community development, is very positive. Yet, to achieve the goals established by many communities, rural Kansans must embrace innovative skills and technological capabilities that are available so our State can be competitive in a global economy. To be successful, Kansas must be aggressive in promoting and supporting Kansas, both domestically and internationally."

Following State Director Banks' remarks, there was a question and answer session covering a wide variety of topics, including discussion about the Agency's renewable energy and affordable homeownership programming efforts. USDA Rural Development is currently touring the State during June to highlight numerous homeownership success stories, along with other Agency programs, and recognizing outstanding partners who assist in helping rural Kansans and their communities.

USDA Rural Development's mission is to deliver programs that will support increasing economic opportunity and improve the quality of life of rural residents. As a venture capital entity, the Agency provides equity and technical assistance to finance and foster growth in homeownership, business development, and critical community and technology infrastructure in rural America. For additional information regarding USDA Rural Development programs, individuals can also call the Agency's state headquarters at 785-271-2700 or log onto the state's USDA Rural Development website at: www.rurdev.usda.gov/ks

USDA Rural Development – *Committed to the future of rural communities*

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